EU DISINFOLAB
CONFERENCE

October 25-26
Radisson Collection Grand Place, Brussels

25 October 2022

09:00 – 09:10   **Welcome remarks** by Diana Wallis, Chair, EU DisinfoLab

09:10 – 10:30   **Opening keynotes**

- o **Interview of disinformation victims** with **Julie Ward**, Former MEP
- o **Vaccination and disinformation** by **Dr. Raed Arafat**, Secretary of State, Head of the Department for Emergency Situations, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Romania
- o **Anti-abortion disinformation: Coordinated oligarchs and religious groups** by **Neil Datta**, Executive Director, European Parliament forum for Sexual and Reproductive Right

10:30 – 11:00 - Coffee break

11:00 – 11:45   **Panel: OSINT: Learning lessons from Ukraine:** The widespread use and development of OSINT techniques in the context of the war have proven its potential for countering dis- and misinformation, and documenting war crimes, among others. What have we learnt and is it enough to bring accountability?

Chair: **Inês Narciso,** Researcher, MediaLab, ISCTE-IUL
- o **Benjamin Strick**, Investigations Director, Centre for Information Resilience
- o **Elise Thomas**, Senior OSINT Analyst, Institute for Strategic Dialogue

11:45 - 12:05   **Masterclass: How *not* to conduct an open-source investigation.** OSINT tools are widely available, and many are eager to use them for good. But with great power comes great responsibility.
- o **Aiganysh Aidarbekova**, Open-Source Investigator, Bellingcat

12:05 – 13:35 – Lunch break

13:35 – 14:20

Panel: Information frontlines. Recent investigations have shown how the Internet infrastructure is a new frontline to counter disinformation. Domain name abuses, registrars, servers, this infrastructure is central in accessing information. What do we know about it? Is there accountability in the field? Can we sanction and imagine future policies to prevent malicious actors from abusing it?

Chair: **Emma Le Mesurier**, Managing Director, Next Level Initiatives
- **Kevin Limonier**, Associate Professor, French Institute of Geopolitics, University of Paris 8
- **Alexandre Alaphilippe**, Executive Director, EU DisinfoLab

14:20 – 15:20

Presentations: Disinformation across the EU. Disinformation has many universal elements. It is also versatile and adapts to its surrounding context. What is the state of the art in different EU countries?

Chair: **Carlos Hernandes-Echevarria**, Head of Public Policy & Institutional Development, Maldita.es
- **Thanos Sitistas**, Senior Editor, Ellinika Hoaxes
- **Jelena Berković**, Senior Advisor, Faktograf
- **Hanna Linderstål**, CEO, Earhart Business Protection Agency and newly started Earhart Academy

15:20 – 15:40

Masterclass: Unlocking the potential of AI for verification (Vera.ai).
- **Denis Teyssou**, Medialab R&D Editorial Manager, AFP

15:40 – 16:10 - Coffee break

16:10 – 16:55

Panel: You say you're a media, now act like one! From 'traditional media' and tabloids to citizen journalists and influencers, how can we ensure that all actors in our media system are responsible and accountable?

Chair: **Susan Morgan**, Independent Consultant
- **Ľuboš Kukliš**, Chief Executive, Slovak Council for Media Services, Chair, European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA)
- **Prof. Rasmus Kleis Nielsen**, Director, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism; Professor of Political Communication, University of Oxford
- **Christophe Deloire**, Secretary General, Reporters without Borders; Chair, Forum on Information and Democracy

16:55 - 17:15

Věra Jourová, Vice-President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency, followed with a Q&A led by **Diana Wallis**, Chair, EU DisinfoLab.

19:30 – Social event – Under registration & for attendees only

26 October 2022

09:00 – 09:40 **Masterclass: Can we agree on a definition of disinformation?** The more everyone talks about 'disinformation', the more clear and functional definitions matter in this space. How do different stakeholders and platforms define disinformation, and how does this affect their approach and our collective effort?

Chair: **Lutz Güllner**, Head of Division for Strategic Communications and Information Analysis, European External Action Service

- o **Olga Belogolova**, Policy Lead, Influence Operations, Meta

09:40 – 10:40 **Presentations: How are other platforms dealing with disinformation?** The techniques and tactics of disinformation actors and the spread of misinformation vary in different online settings. How do different service providers perceive and mitigate these challenges?

Chair: **Isabelle Arnson**, Senior Policy Analyst, Tech Against Terrorism
- o **Dimitar Dimitrov**, EU Policy Director, Wikimedia
- o **Bri Riggio**, Platform Policy Manager; Discord, Inc.
- o **Laura Seritti**, Head of Public Policy Brussels, Snap

10:40 – 11:00 **Masterclass: Gender-based disinformation: Tactics, techniques, and procedures**.

Chair: **Maria Giovanna Sessa**, Senior Researcher, EU DisinfoLab
- o **Lucina Di Meco**, Co-Founder, #ShePersisted

11:20 – 11:40 **Masterclass: Addressing ad-funded disinfo: How does ad tech need to change to defund disinformation?**
- o **Clare Melford**, CEO, Global Disinformation Index

11:40 – 12:40 **Presentations: How to monitor algorithms?** Is it possible to make an algorithm accountable? (We certainly hope so!) But how do we monitor and enforce this in practice?

Chair: **Mathias Vermeulen**, Public Policy Director, AWO
- o **Nelly Pailleux**, Chief Knowledge Officer, Check First
- o **Marc Faddoul**, Co-Director, Tracking Exposed
- o **John Albert**, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Algorithm Watch

| 13:40 – 14:40 | **Presentations**: Debunking myths about disinformation. How sure are we that labelling disinformation is effective? What about deplatforming? We will dive into some of our assumptions and look critically at what we know and what we are missing. |

Chair: **Laura Smillie**, Policy Analyst, European Commission
- o **Hella-Franziska Hoffmann**, Client Services Technical Program Manager, Logically
- o **Clement Wolf**, Head of Information Quality Policy, Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google
- o **Prof. Stephan Lewandowsky**, Professor of Cognitive Science, University of Bristol

| 14:40 – 15:00 | **Masterclass: The EU Digital Services Act is a big deal for disinformation. Here is why.** |
- o **Rita Jonusaite**, Advocacy Coordinator, EU DisinfoLab

15:00 – 15:30 – Coffee break

| 15:30 - 16:15 | **Panel: The Internet of Tomorrow.** "Web3", "The Metaverse", "Synthetic Media". What do all these buzzwords actually mean, and what are their concrete implications for the fight against disinformation? |

Chair: **Gregory Rohde**, Board Member, EU DisinfoLab
- o **Sam Gregory**, Director of Programs, Strategy & Innovation, Witness
- o **Dr. Inga Trauthig**, Senior Research Fellow, University of Texas, Austin
- o **Trisha Meyer**, Director of Centre on Digitalisation, Democracy and Innovation, Brussels School of Governance, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

| 16:15 – 16:30 | **Closing** by **Diana Wallis**, Chair, EU DisinfoLab |

16:30 – End of EU DisinfoLab conference